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Mr. Lester Snow  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814


Dear Lester:

This will supplement my letter of April 5, 1999 commenting on your Revised Phase II Report.

Last week's Delta Smelt incident causes me to again reiterate the desperate need for the Isolated Facility to carry high quality water across the Delta and additional upstream storage to meet the continuing unplanned new water demands. There seems to be no end to the regulator's decisions that result in new/additional demands on the water bank. I previously stated that the Environmental Water Bank would not work without additional upstream storage because of the already broke water bank. Now it appears that even if a south-of-Delta user had a water account upstream, he could not withdraw and use any of it because he could not get it across the Delta. What a travesty. How much more evidence do you need to clearly show the benefits of both upstream storage and the Isolated Facility to help transport high quality water across the Delta under the current and potential other future similarly impacting events.

And another good repeat question: who is analyzing the negative economic impacts of these decisions and events? In this case, the south-of-Delta users are the losers and, in the end, the State's overall economy. On the other hand, such events could just as well adversely affect some of the planned Ecosystem Restoration Program. The deficiencies in your treatment of both the conveyance and storage needs in the system are going to continue to be aggravated as these events continue to occur.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph E. Patten